Roxbury, August 7, 1876.

Dear Wendell:

This afternoon William is expecting to meet you and Lucy and the two boys, on the way to Osterville. I trust the sea-change will prove pleasant and invigorating to you all, especially to Lucy. I have seen no finer or more tempting place for bathing; and you will see at a glance how safe it is.

What I wish to suggest is, that you make provision for spending at least two or three days with me, before returning home. Of course, the rooms being vacant in consequence of Harry's and Fanny's absence, you can all be accommodated; and your coming will help to relieve my solitariness. I do not like the idea of your going back without seeing you; but if you feel that you must return

by the same route that you came, then I must try to join you at Osterville. But I have already made my visit there, and prefer to seeing you at Rockledge, other things being equal.

To-morrow afternoon, should the weather prove favorable, Frank and I think of going to Newcastle (three miles from Portsmouth), partly because I desire to see a lady there whose mother knew my mother, and partly because of the reputed pleasantness of the location. Frank, unfortunately, will be obliged to return on Monday; but I think of extending my trip to Old Orchard Beach, and then to Portland, and from Portland to Gorham, and from Gorham to the Glen House, taking Harry and Fanny by surprise, to remain with them two or three days; my absence covering eight or ten days. If you should write to Fanny, say nothing about it.

I want you to see your mother's portrait by Billings. I think it is an excellent transcript of her face as she looked a score of years ago. Mrs. Dall and Deborah Weston, as well as other friends, have expressed great delight in contemplating it.

My rheumatic knee still causes me a good deal of pain, day and night. I have ceased doing anything for it.

With loving regards to Lucy, Ellie, and all the little ones, I remain

Your affectionate Father.